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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/657,956	09/08/2000	Eva Prpic	JP920000170US1	1771

7590 06/29/2005

International Business Machines Corporation  
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EXAMINER
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ZHONG, CHAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/657,956

Applicant(s)

PRPIC ET AL.

Examiner

Chad Zhong

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

### FINAL ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment B, filed on 04/04/2005. The action has been made final.

Applicant's remarks filed 04/04/2005 have been considered but are found not persuasive.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “validating and using your pass”, 1996, (hereinafter Pass), in view of “Travelocity”, 1999, (hereinafter Travelocity), in view of “Public Transportation”, 1999 (hereinafter Vatican), in view of Best et al. (hereinafter Best), US 6,092,841.

6. As per claims 1 and 5, Pass teaches a method of accrediting participants to an event, said method comprising the steps of:

c) producing a non-valid pass for each of said participants (pg 1, paragraphs 1-2, wherein the pre-purchased passes are not valid until validated at the time of travel);

d) issuing the respective non-valid passes to said participants (pg 1, paragraphs 1-2);

e) upon arrival of such a participant at, or proximate an event venue, validating said non-valid pass for the participant, thereby accrediting said participant (pg 2, paragraph 3, wherein the validation occurs as the validation attendant validate the pass with your current status information in the pass port),

7. Pass does not explicitly teach:

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- a) collecting information from each of said participants;
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system;

8. Travelocity teaches:

- a) collecting information from each of said participants (pg 2-3);
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system (pg 2-3, wherein the tickets can be purchased online, during the online purchase, personal information are given and are recorded in the accreditation system prior to receiving the tickets);

9. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass and Travelocity because they both dealing with transportation systems. Furthermore, the teaching of Travelocity to allow

- a) collecting information from each of said participants;
- b) recording the information in an accreditation system;

would improve the security for Pass's system by collecting user information prior to issuing the pass to user, allowing the accreditation system to track which user purchased tickets.

10. Pass and Travelocity does not explicitly teach:

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system.

11. Vatican teaches:

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system (pg 1, line 20 – pg 2, line 7, wherein the validation machines keep track of accreditation status of participant).

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12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass, Travelocity, and Vatican because they all deal with transportation systems. Furthermore, the teaching of Travelocity to allow

updating an accreditation status of the participant in the accreditation system would improve the security for Pass's system by updating user information to make sure the information stays current, allowing the accreditation system to continually track which user purchased tickets.

13. Pass does not teach securing the pass in a security pouch

In a similar system, Best teaches securing the pass in a security laminate in order to protect the card (see for example, Col. 3, lines 15-26).

It would have been obvious to have a security pouch in the form of a laminate in order to protect the card.

14. As per claim 2, Pass teaches the method of claim 1, comprising the further step of:

upon arrival of each participant, verifying information of said participant before said non-valid pass is validated (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3).

15. As per claims 4 and 7, Pass teaches ascribing an accreditation class to each of said participants; and ascribing privileges to each of said accreditation classes (see for example, pg 1, paragraphs 1-3, wherein the classes themselves are extended brackets for the period valid traveling time on the trip, the privileges refers to the length of travel time, or the length of time wherein the pass is valid while using the transportation system).

16. As per claim 8, Pass does not teach wherein said system is a distributed system comprising interconnected servers and workstations. However, "Official Notice" is taken by the examiner that both the concept and advantages of providing for distributed system comprising of interconnected servers and workstations is well known and expected in the art. It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of invention to include a series of servers and workstations in a distributed manner because doing so would provide efficiency for the Immigration's system, operating as an automated network oriented architecture.

17. As per claim 9 and 10, Pass teaches wherein the non-valid passes issued to the participants form a first portion of a valid pass (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3) and the participants are associated with organizations (wherein the organizations is a group of travelers, for instance a family unit comprising of at least two people), and wherein the method of comprises the steps of:

producing non-valid passes by the accreditation system for said organizations, wherein such a non-valid pass for an organization forms a second portion of a valid pass (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3);

and

issuing the non-valid passes to said organizations, so that the organizations may distribute the second portions to selected ones of the participants associated with the respective organizations, wherein the validating in step e) uses both the first and second portions of the pass (pg 1, paragraphs 1-3, wherein the first portion is distributed in advance, and the real validated pass will combine the original invalid pass along with information which will make the pass valid).

18. Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pass, Travelocity, Vatican in view of De La Rue "Angolan National Identity Solution" (hereinafter De la Rue), 1999, and further in view of "Travel Agents", 1997, (hereinafter Travel).

19. As per claims 3 and 6, Pass, Travelocity , and Vatican do not necessarily teach sending a bulk request to an Immigration Authority, and

receiving a status from said department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a form of entry

20. De la Rue teaches sending a request to immigration authority and receiving a visa

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status from said immigration department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa (paragraph 1-3).

21. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass, Travelocity, Vatican and De la Rue because they all deal with validation process prior to entry to an area. Furthermore, the teaching of De la Rue to sending a visa request to immigration authority and receiving a visa status from said immigration department, allowing said validated pass to serve as a visa would expand the functionality for Pass, Travelocity, Vatican's system by expanding the authentication and validation technique at the immigration check points.

22. Pass, Travelocity, Vatican and De La Rue do not explicitly teach sending a bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants.

23. Travel teaches sending

a bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants (pg 1, Sun Travel Agency, line 3).

24. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Pass, Travelocity, Vatican, De la Rue, and Travel because they all deal with travel processing. Furthermore, the teaching of Travel to allow

a bulk request to Immigration Authority prior to arrival of participants would expand the functionality for Pass, Travelocity, Vatican, De la Rue's system by expanding the authentication and validation technique at the immigration check points and requesting bulk visa orders with immigration offices prior to departure of the travelers.

#### **Response To Arguments**

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25. In the remark, the Applicant argued in substance that Vatican does not apply as prior art.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the "XXI Journees Arithmetiques" is a website that is advertising this particular conference which was held in July 12 – 16<sup>th</sup> of 1999. It should also be noted that the site offers registration to the users and provide helpful local transportation information to the visitors of the conference. This means that the website was published prior to the conference date in order to have any value to its visitors and attendees. The registration section of the website is provided with the current office action for applicant's consideration. Hence, Vatican qualifies as prior art at least for the reasons stated above.

26. In the remark, the Applicant argued in substance that Travelocity does not apply as prior art.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the first Travelocity page has a link called "rent a car", the first page also has a copy right date of 1999. Which means all contents on the page is dated 1999 for copy right to be in effect. The second Travelocity page does not have a copy right date, however it is the resulting page after the user click event "rent a car" on the first page, which means that the second Travelocity page is also copy righted 1999. Thus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Travelocity date is the copyright date 1999 unless proven otherwise.

27. In the remark, the Applicant argued in substance that Pass does not apply as prior art.

In response to Applicant's arguments, a new version of the Pass copy righted 1996-1998 is provided for applicant's consideration. It should be noted that the 'older' version of the Pass contains same materials relied upon for the initial rejection. Hence, Pass is considered a valid reference for the reasons stated above.

28. In the remark, the Applicant argued in substance that Official Notice regarding the security pouch is not obvious at the time of the invention. The examiner addressed this deficiency in the body of the office action above.



29. Applicant should submit an argument under the heading "Remarks" pointing out disagreements with the examiner's contentions. Applicant must also discuss the references applied against the claims, explaining how the claims avoid the references or distinguish from them.

### *Conclusion*

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reined of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents and publications are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to "Accreditation of Personnel".

- |      |              |              |
|------|--------------|--------------|
| i.   | US 6,035,280 | Christensen. |
| ii.  | US 4,882,779 | Rahtgen.     |
| iii. | US 5,841,886 | Rhoads.      |
| iv.  | US 6,408,331 | Rhoads.      |

- v. US 6,456,984 Demoff et al.
- vi. US 5,737,701 Rosenthal et al.
- vii. US 6,129,275 Urquhart et al.
- viii. US 4,851,651 Gaucher.
- ix. US 5,949,046 Kenneth et al.
- x. US 6,636,833 Flitcroft et al.
- xi. US 5,548,106 Liang et al.
- xii. "DE LA RUE GIVES SINGAPORE THE 'MIDIS' TOUCH Singapore Immigration & Registration Department Chooses De La Rue Identity Systems to Provide Automated Passport Production System" Dec. 02, 1998
- xiii. "Cards & Personal Identification Technical Committee" July, 2000.
- xiv. US 2002/0070863 Brooking.
- xv. "Armed Services Commissary Regulations" (ASCR), James L. Elmer August 3, 1990.
- xvi. "European Committee for Banking Standards", January 1996.
- xvii. "Meal Card Program", Air Force Instruction 34-241, November 1, 1997.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chad Zhong whose telephone number is (571)272-3946. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:15 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BURGESS, GLENTON B can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available

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through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CZ

May 18, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. El-Hady". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping vertical line extending downwards from the end of the name.